



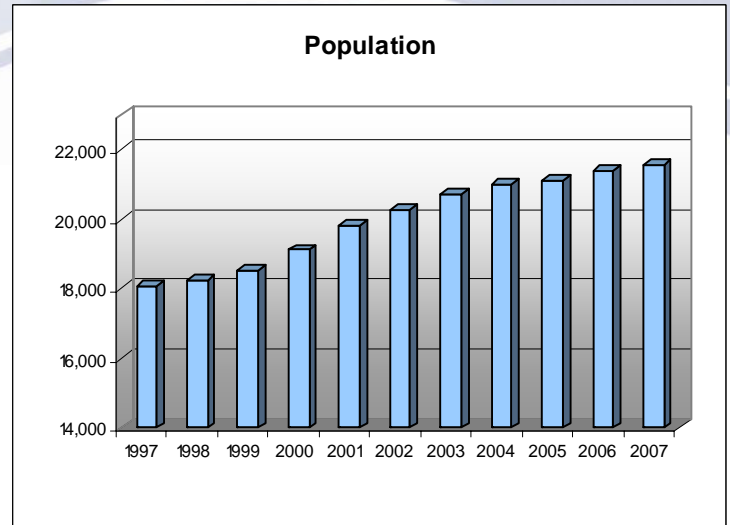
# Blaine County

October 2008

## Work Force Trends

### Population

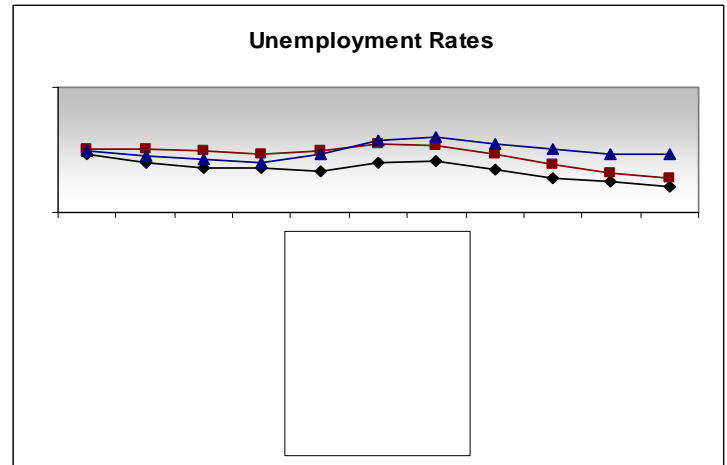
Blaine County has experienced strong, steady growth over the last decade. The population has increased from 18,081 in 1997 to 21,560 in 2007. This is a 10-year increase of 19.2 percent, making Blaine County the fastest growing county in south central Idaho for the last decade. Beautiful mountain scenery and virtually unlimited recreational opportunities make Blaine County a destination location. The world famous Sun Valley Ski Resort averaged 384,000 skiers each season over the last five years. The outlook for Blaine County is for continued growth, but at a somewhat slower rate than it experienced in the last decade due to congestion in traffic and lack of affordable housing. New resort hotel projects should create job opportunities and promote growth over the next five years.



### Labor Force & Employment

Blaine County has made remarkable progress in increasing its employment and lowering unemployment. Over the last decade, the seasonally adjusted unemployment rate peaked at 4.6 percent in 1997, while the 2007 average unemployment rate was two percent, one of the lowest in the state. The seasonality of work in Blaine County has smoothed out some due to more spring and summer recreational opportunities, as well as the popularity of the area for conferences in the off season. Most jobs in Blaine County are in the construction and services sectors. The area is light in the services sector labor pool due to lack of affordable housing but many local entities are designing programs to fill this housing gap.

Although average wages in Blaine County are approximately 34 percent higher than those in the rest of



south central Idaho, they are not adequate for most workers to live in the area and many commute from other counties. There is traffic congestion between Ketchum and Bellevue but road improvements continue on schedule. Many workers had been employed in higher paying construction jobs, with some losses in that industry due to the economic downturn. Blaine County's economy continues to be sustainable with new developments and a new airport in the foreseeable future. The outlook for Blaine County continues to be in a growth mode but more moderately paced than past years.

Labor Force	Sep 2007	Sep 2008
Civilian Labor Force	13,400	13,764
Total Employment	13,114	13,186
Unemployed	285	578
% of Labor Force Unemployed	2.1	4.2
State of Idaho % Unemployed	2.7	5.0
U.S. % Unemployed	4.7	6.1

Labor Force	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007
Civilian Labor Force	10,684	10,931	11,117	11,890	12,439	12,893	12,665	13,363	13,949	14,055	14,030
Unemployment	495	436	393	421	408	507	524	461	380	343	288
% of Labor Force Unemployed	4.6	4.0	3.5	3.5	3.3	3.9	4.1	3.5	2.7	2.4	2.1
Employment	10,189	10,495	10,724	11,469	12,031	12,386	12,141	12,902	13,569	13,711	13,742

## Nonfarm Payroll Jobs for 2007



## Wages & Income

Wages in Blaine County are significantly higher than in the rest of south central Idaho and statewide due to the high cost of living. Blaine County with its natural beauty and diverse recreational pursuits attracts numerous affluent residents. The per capita income for Blaine County in 2006 was \$59,939, making it the highest in Idaho. In fact, it exceeds the United State's per capita income for 2006 by \$23,225 or 63 percent and the Idaho per capita income by \$30,190 or 100 percent.

### Major Employers

Atkinson's Market
180 Connect
Power Engineers
Rocky Mountain Hardware
St. Luke's Wood River Medical Center
Sun Valley Lodge aka Sinclair Company
Webb Landscape

### Occupational Wages\*

### Starting Wage

Elementary Teachers	\$26.00
Secondary Teachers	\$26.00
Social Workers	\$20.32
Registered Nurses	\$23.77
Legal Secretaries	\$13.23
Bookkeepers	\$13.76
Cashiers	\$7.31
Motel Housekeeping	\$7.69
Chefs	\$14.12
Lifeguards and Ski Patrol	\$8.00
Landscapers	\$11.00
Construction Labor	\$14.27
Electricians, Journeyman	\$25.00
Maintenance Mechanics	\$19.11

\* Additional occupational wage data can be found on the Idaho Department of Labor Web site at [lmi.idaho.gov](http://lmi.idaho.gov).

Covered Employment & Average Annual Wages Per Job for 1997, 2006, & 2007	1997		2006		2007	
	Average Employment	Average Wages	Average Employment	Average Wages	Average Employment	Average Wages
Total Covered Wages	10,100	\$26,135	13,859	\$35,394	13,924	\$36,291
Agriculture	115	\$21,526	133	\$23,571	164	\$24,410
Mining	32	\$27,535	37	\$40,507	35	\$36,446
Construction	1,414	\$27,229	2,524	\$37,946	2,493	\$39,935
Manufacturing	297	\$28,765	457	\$69,066	466	\$47,571
Trade, Utilities & Transportation	1,746	\$21,808	2,224	\$32,930	2,260	\$32,320
Information	190	\$26,992	338	\$34,056	355	\$36,335
Financial Activities	584	\$29,928	792	\$51,778	764	\$58,276
Professional and Business Services	1,056	\$64,488	1,902	\$46,985	1,796	\$50,787
Educational and Health Services	381	\$31,453	722	\$35,055	770	\$36,559
Leisure and Hospitality	2,693	\$12,558	2,929	\$18,742	3,002	\$20,203
Other Services	365	\$19,990	448	\$29,976	440	\$32,820
Government	1,228	\$12,558	1,353	\$18,742	1,379	\$20,203

Per Capita Income	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006
Blaine County	\$35,174	\$37,703	\$39,658	\$42,965	\$43,634	\$42,722	\$44,165	\$50,902	\$54,945	\$59,939
State of Idaho	\$20,648	\$21,789	\$22,786	\$24,077	\$25,024	\$25,221	\$25,524	\$27,361	\$28,301	\$29,920
United States	\$25,334	\$26,883	\$27,939	\$29,843	\$30,574	\$30,821	\$31,504	\$33,123	\$34,757	\$36,714

Information provided by U.S. Census Bureau



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This publication is produced by the Idaho Department of Labor and funded at least in part by federal grants from the U.S. Department of Labor.

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